

Abstract

Name customization features allow users to customize calling name information provided to a telecommunications network for calls placed from their subscriber lines. A local exchange switch provides calling party identification information for an associated subscriber line to the telecommunications network. If a custom name is desired for a given call, the local exchange switch changes, if necessary, a name value in the calling party identification information to the custom value. Subscribers can identify particular numbers and corresponding desired custom names, with the local exchange switch selecting the desired name when an identified number is called. Dialing feature codes from a handset or other device also may control custom name information. When appropriate, subscribers may customize calling number information as well. Preferably, screening methods prohibit subscribers from specifying disingenuous custom information. Custom information may be set any number of ways, including via telephone handsets, or by PC via a Web-based interface. Preferably, calling party identification information provided by the local exchange switch also includes fixed identification information to maintain accurate calling records within the telecommunications network.